

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A stem portion for a toothbrush for delivering fluid supplied from at least one reservoir to at least one exit opening in a bristle plate with bristles, comprising:

a stem body having an interior longitudinal opening, the stem body having an outer surface and inner surface which defines the longitudinal opening, wherein the stem body terminates in a bristle plate with bristles which is integral with the stem body or attached thereto; and

a core member configured to fit within the stem body opening, wherein a rear end of the stem portion connects to the remainder of the toothbrush, the stem body having an outer surface, wherein the stem body and the core member each have at least two grooves along the lengths thereof, the core member including an outer surface which extends between the grooves therein, wherein one groove in an inner surface of the stem body which opens onto the inner surface of the stem body and one mating groove in the outer surface of the core member, form a first stem channel, and wherein a second groove in the inner surface of the stem body, which opens onto the inner surface of the stem body and a second mating groove in the outer surface of the core member form a second stem channel, wherein the first and second stem channels extend to the bristle plate, for delivery of fluids to the bristle plate, and wherein the core member includes two extending rib elements which extend outwardly from said outer surface of the core member and are located, respectively, between the first and second stem channels, contacting the stem body in such a manner to provide a fluid-tight relationship between the stem body and the core member, separating the fluids in the first and second stem channels along the lengths thereof.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the core member

includes a coupling element at a distal end thereof, which includes grooved portions which communicate with the first and second channels in the stem body and which are adapted to receive fluid pathway channels from the reservoir.

4. (original) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the bristle plate includes fluid pathway portions which extend from the first and second channels in the stem portion to exit openings in the bristle plate, permitting fluid to move therethrough to the bristles.

5. (previously presented) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the first and second channels are opposed, approximately 180° apart.

6. (previously presented) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the extending elements are crushable ribs and the stem body includes two mating key slots, providing a fluid-tight relationship between the stem body and the core member, separating the first and second channels.

7. (previously presented) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the extending elements are ribs and the stem body includes two mating key slots, providing a friction-fit fluid-tight relationship between the stem body and the core member, separating the first and second channels.

8. (previously presented) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the two extending elements are ribs which are welded to the stem body to provide a fluid-tight relationship between the stem body and the core member, separating the first and second channels.

9. (previously presented) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein the first and second channels are approximately circular.

10. (previously presented) The stem portion of claim 1, wherein one channel extends to one exit opening in the bristle plate and the other channel extends to another exit opening in the bristle plate.

11. (currently amended) A stem portion for a toothbrush for delivering fluid supplied from at least one reservoir to at least one exit opening in a bristle plate with bristles, comprising:

a stem body portion having a hollow interior; and

a stem core portion adapted to be fitted within the stem body portion in a fluid-tight relationship, wherein an inner surface of the stem body portion and an outer surface of the stem core portion both have grooves therein which are configured to mate together to define two fluid-tight separate channels therealong, extending to the bristle plate, for delivery of fluid to said bristle plate opening, wherein the inner surface of the stem body portion and the outer surface of the stem core portion include surface portions which extend between the grooves therein, wherein one of the stem core portion and the stem body portion includes two rib elements which extend from the surface portions thereof, between the first and second channels, contacting the other of the stem core portion and the stem body portion in such a manner to provide a fluid-tight relationship between the stem core portion and the stem body portion, separating the fluids in the separate channels along the length thereof.

12. (original) The stem portion of claim 11, wherein one channel extends to one opening in the bristle plate and the other channel extends to a second opening in the bristle plate.